

CLAIMS

1. Method for setting basic means of access for operation of a device wherein said operation is controllable by electronic means, characterized in that it includes the steps:

establishment (110) of a link (19) between a personal authentication system (16) supplied with encryption data and a logic system (20) able to control the electronic device control;

checking (120, 140) of the data in said authentication system (16) prior to operation of said device;

assignment of predetermined means of access to said device associated with said authentication system (16);

enabling (150) said means of access predetermined for said authentication system (16) dependent on the result of said checking of data;

2. The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said means of access comprises at least one of the following: disable operation of said device (12), enable operation of said device (12), or enable configuration of said device (12).

3. The method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said link (19) contains no intermediate software layers.

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4. The method in accordance with Claim 3, including the step of reading at least one of the following features from said authentication system (16): firmware programs, device-specific command sequences for execution of specific device-specific functions, cryptographic keys, cryptographic algorithms, individual decision-making logic.

5. The method in accordance with Claim 4 for configuration of devices (12) by authorized persons, wherein after successful authentication, device-specific configuration data are downloaded into said device (12) from said authentication system (16) over a network.

6. An authentication system (16), created for authentication of a person or a group of people, in the method in accordance with one of the preceding Claim 4.

7. An authentication system (16) in accordance with Claim 1, wherein it is implemented in the form of a SmartCard.

8. A system for setting basic means of access for operation of a device (12) wherein said operation is controllable by electronic means, including at least one said device (12), and an authentication system (16) in accordance with Claim 7.

9. A computer program, containing program code areas for the execution or preparation for execution of the steps of the method defined in Claim 1, when said program is installed in a computer.